

CLAIMS

1. A tube for introducing gases into critically ill patients comprising:

- 5 • a perforated zone at or near the distal end of said tube, and
- an inflatable/deflatable sleeve covering said perforated zone of said tube allowing direct connection between the lumen of said tube and the lumen of said sleeve, wherein said sleeve is hermetically bound peripherally at its two extremities to said tube, allowing flow of gas from the lumen of said tube to an airway in which the tube tip is inserted.

10 2. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 1 and wherein the distal orifice of said tube is sealed.

- 15 3. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 1 and wherein the distal orifice of said tube is perforated.

- 20 4. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 1 wherein a clamp holds said tube substantially in parallel with a cylindrical accessory.

5. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 4 and wherein said cylindrical accessory is slidable with respect to said clamp. .

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6. A tube for introducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 1 wherein at least one side port is disposed along said tube for introducing agents into said gases.
 - 5 7. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 1 wherein at least one sensor is disposed at substantially the distal end of said tube.
 8. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 7 and wherein said at least one sensor is a microphone.
 - 10 9. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 7 and wherein said at least one sensor is a camera.
- 15 10. A method for introducing gas into the airways of a patient comprising the steps of:
- introducing a distal portion of a tube into said patient airways;
 - inflating said tube by pressurizing gas in said tube from a proximal end of said tube;
 - introducing gas into said sleeve through perforations in said tube;
 - inflating said sleeve into a blocking position of said airway;
 - introducing gas into said airway through said tube, and
 - deflating said sleeve for allowing gas to flow out of said airway.
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11. A method for introducing gas into the airways of a patient as in claim 10
wherein said distal portion of said tube is insertion limited.

5 12. A method for introducing gas into the airways of a patient as in claim 10
and wherein the progress of said insertion is monitored.

13. A method for introducing gas into the airways of a patient as in claim 10
and wherein the air pressure at the airway is monitored.

10 14. A method for introducing gas into the airways of a patient as in claim 13
and wherein the progress of said insertion is continuously monitored.

15. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 7 and
wherein said at least one sensor is a pressure transducer.

15 16. A tube for inducing gases into critically ill patients as in claim 7 and
wherein said at least one sensor is a gas composition sensor.